

**JUNE 12, 2014**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

The June 12, 2014, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Neal Whitelaw, Foster Town Council member, at the Town House, Foster, Rhode Island, at 7:07 p.m.

The following members were present:

**John L. Lewis, Jr., President, excused**  
**Pamela Fontaine, Vice President**  
**Neal C. Whitelaw,**  
**Denise DiFranco, and**  
**Roger L. Hawes.**

Also present were:

Renee M. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor  
Kelli Russ, Town Treasurer  
William Ziehl, Police Chief

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. ANNOUNCEMENTS** Neal Whitelaw stated that the notice of the meeting was properly posted on the Secretary of State's web site.
- Pamela Fontaine read the notice from the top of the agenda: *The Foster Town Council does not sanction any electronic audio/video recordings of Town Council Meetings made by the public. Any audio/video recordings made by the public are not public records under Title 38 Public Records.*
- III. MINUTES** Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve the minutes of **May 22, 2014**, as presented.
- Discussion: Pamela Fontaine asked for clarification and correction to page 4, section "e", regarding Ms. DiFranco's research on taxes, and to spell out names in two places. Denise DiFranco pointed out an inaccuracy in one vote in section "d".
- Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded to table the approval of the revised minutes to the July 10 meeting.
- Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.
- IV. WARRANTS** Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve **Payroll Warrant #46** for \$26,430.35.
- Pamela Fontaine, nay; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 3-1.
- Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve **Payroll Warrant #47** for \$29,603.99.
- Pamela Fontaine, nay; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 3-1.
- Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve **Payroll Warrant #48** for \$26,874.76.
- Pamela Fontaine, nay; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 3-1.
- Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve **General Warrant #21** for \$74,039.80.
- Pamela Fontaine, nay; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 3-1.
- V. MONTHLY REPORTS** Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve the amended April monthly report from the Tax Assessor as presented.
- Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0
- VI. QUARTERLY REPORTS** None

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- VII. NEW BUSINESS**
- a. Additions/ abatements**  
**Tax Assessor** Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to accept the total abatements for \$456.02 as presented by Patti Moreau, Tax Assessor.  
Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0
- b. Abatements**  
**Tax Collector** Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to accept the personal property abatements for \$1,627.99 and the motor vehicle abatements for \$6,104.97, as presented by Nancy Delaire, Tax Collector.  
Pamela Fontaine, nay; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 3-1.
- c. Proclamation** Denise DiFranco read the Proclamation recognizing the Moosup Valley Grange's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.  
Roger Hawes moved, Pamela Fontaine seconded, to accept the Proclamation as read.  
Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0
- d. Payment for Mowing Cemeteries** Roger Hawes moved, Pamela Fontaine seconded, to pay Kenneth Battey out of the contingency fund for the first cutting of cemeteries.  
Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0
- e. Resignation of Town Clerk** Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to accept the resignation of Carol Lyons Sholly with regrets.  
Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0
- f. Perpetual Care** Denise DiFranco read the letter presented to the Council from Gordon Rogers (Exhibit A), requesting that the graves of veterans buried within the Town of Foster's cemeteries be maintained in the same manner as those on the perpetual care list.  
Roger Hawes moved, Denise DiFranco seconded, to send a letter to the Town Clerk to ascertain how many veterans' graves are in the town first.  
Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0
- OLD BUSINESS**
- VIII. a. Contract Renewal Scituate Animal Shelter** Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to accept the renewal of the agreement with the Scituate Animal Shelter for the next fiscal year.  
Discussion: Renee Bevilacqua stated that this vote is a formality; the Council had already accepted the bid from the Scituate Animal Shelter.  
Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0
- b. BOC appointment** Roger Hawes moved, Denise DiFranco seconded, the appointment of Wilma Gervasio to the Board of Canvassers.  
Discussion: Neal Whitelaw stated that Ms. Gervasio needs to be affiliated with a party. Renee Bevilacqua stated that there should be a letter from the Board of Canvasser chair specifying what party Ms. Gervasio belongs to.  
Roger Hawes removed his motion, Denise DiFranco removed her second.  
Roger Hawes moved, Denise DiFranco seconded, to table the appointment to the next meeting.  
Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0
- IX. PUBLIC HEARING**  
**CDBG Grant** The public hearing opened at 7:44 p.m.  
Denise DiFranco recused herself from the vote as she is on the Board of

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Hemlock Village, one recipient of the Community Block Development Grant.(Exhibit B)

Pamela Fontaine read the public hearing notice.

Discussion: Neal Whitelaw asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor of the grant. No one spoke.

Mr. Whitelaw asked if anyone wanted to speak in opposition. No one spoke.

The public hearing closed at 7:46 p.m.

Neal Whitelaw made the following motion, seconded by Roger Hawes:  
“This is certified as a true copy of a resolutions adopted by the Council of The Town of Foster, RI at a meeting held on June as, 2014.  
WHEREAS, funds are available under the Rhode Island Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the Department of Administration, Division of Planning, Office of Housing and Community Development; and WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Rhode Island has authorized the Director of said Department/Office to disburse such funds; and, WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the citizens of the Town of Foster, RI application be made to undertake a local Community Development Block Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FOSTER, RI, that the filing of this application for the amount of \$150,000.00 to implement the activities proposed herein hereby authorized and that JOHN L. LEWIS, JR., Town Council President (Chief Executive Officer) is hereby authorized and directed to file this application with the Office of Housing and Community Development, to provide any additional information or documents required by said office, to make any assurances required in connection with this program, to execute an agreement with the State of Rhode Island and to otherwise act as the Representative of the Town of Foster, RI in all matters relating to this application and any award which may be based upon this application.”

Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, recused; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 3-0

- X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** Appointment of Wilma Gervasio to Board of Canvassers  
Revised minutes of May 22, 2014  
Gordon Rogers letter on Perpetual Cemetery care for Veterans.

The open meeting closed at 7:51 p.m.

- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION** Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to a work session regarding RIGL 42-46-5 for the discussion of (A) 42-46-5a(2) Collective Bargaining / Negotiations or Litigation and (B) 42-46-5a(1) Personnel, and to reconvene into open session and to further keep the minutes of said meeting closed and the minutes of all executive sessions held previous to this meeting be closed and remain closed in accordance with provisions in RIGL 42-46-4 and 5.

Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0

- XII. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION** The Town Council reconvened into open session. No votes were taken.

- XIII. ADJOURNMENT** Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

A digital sound file is made a part of the record for a complete account of the council meeting.

Submitted by

Jane Christopher  
Deputy Town Clerk